

# FLEET FOCUS

## Charlotte claims victory, takes Battle ‘E’

By JOSN Michelle Burnside  
COMSUBPAC Public Affairs

The fast-attack submarine, USS Charlotte (SSN 766), based in Pearl Harbor was recently awarded the Battle Efficiency “E” for Submarine Squadron One for the first time. Charlotte also earned the Navigation red and green “N”.

The Battle “E” is awarded annually to the best submarine in a squadron or group. It recognizes sustained superior performance in a day-to-day operational environment, which includes evaluations on completed inspections and deployment exercises.

“The submarine won the top honors for Submarine Squadron One by proving its tactical proficiency and battle capabilities in all areas,” said Lt. Mike Fisher, navigator of USS Charlotte.

The Navigation “N” is also a coveted annual award that is based on guidelines which determine who has shown the most demonstrable navigation in operation of a ship in restricted waters and open-ocean navigation.

Piloting set Charlotte well ahead of the other Squadrons due to the navigation team’s superior level of training. The supervisory cross-qualification training for navigation allowed each team member to know one another’s job.

This ensured that no matter what

the circumstance at sea, the ship was always in optimum position and on required course.

USS Charlotte deployed last in December 1999 and returned to Pearl Harbor in June 2000. The ship conducted several important operations and exercises while deployed to the Western Pacific. The crew enjoyed port visits in China, South Korea, and Pattaya, Thailand.

“It is great that our hard work, effort, and time spent away from family and friends is appreciated. I believe the Battle “E” was well deserved by the Charlotte,” says Storekeeper 2nd Class Danny Hines.

The feelings on board regarding the awards were unanimous. Excitement, brought on by the first place honors, echoed throughout the crew. Each man knew the efforts put forth during the year proved to be their finest.

“Battle ‘E’ is like a really big pat on the back. It shows they really appreciate what we do,” said Sonar Technician Submarines 3rd Class Kacy Moe.

The fast-attack Los Angeles class submarine was commissioned in Sept. 1994. It is complimented by a crew of about 138 men and is 360 ft. in length.

The ship was formerly commanded by Cmdr. Reid S. Tanaka and is under the current command of Cmdr. Thomas W. Bailey.



File photo

USS Charlotte (SSN 766) was award the Battle Efficiency “E” for Submarmarine Squadron One and the Navigation red and green “N”. The submarine was commissioned in Sept. 1994 and has a compliment of about 138 Sailors.

## Royal Australian Navy, others visit Russell

By Ens. Jason Troupe  
USS RUSSELL

USS Russell (DDG 59) hosted three tours, including visits from a group of significant civilian and corporate leaders, a congressional staff delegation, and a group of supply and logistics officers of the Royal Australian Navy.

The crew of Russell played host to 22 visitors including former Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Adm. (Ret.) Henry Mauz and his wife Peggy on Jan. 13. Also visiting were President and CEO of Sun Microsystems, Scott McNealy, his wife Susan and son Maverick, along with six members of the McNealys’ extended family.

There was also a large Walt Disney contingent, which included Dick Cook, the Chairman of Walt Disney Motion Pictures, and six of his senior vice presidents.

The most honored members of the group, however, were Gary Laughlin and his wife Sandy. Laughlin is a World War II and Korean War veteran who flew Corsairs in the Marine Corps and who was involved in the oil industry following his military career.

Ten members of a congressional staff delegation were treated to lunch in Russell’s Wardroom as well as a tour of the ship Jan. 16.

The guests included the chiefs of staff for two congressional representatives and the legislative assistants for eight others. The group was in Hawaii for an introduction to military life, needs, and facilities.

Four supply officers from the Royal Australian Navy toured Russell Jan. 18. The officers, Capt. Thomson, Cmdr. Mark Sackley, Cmdr. Steve Sparkes, and Lt. Cmdr. Tony Davidson, exchanged ideas and traded stories over lunch in



USS Russell photo

Lt.j.g. Ed Sundberg (right), USS Russell’s Navigator, explains the layout of the Ship Control Console to Capt. Thomson and Cmdr. Mark Sackley (left).

Russell’s Wardroom.

Each of the groups followed a similar route on their tours, starting out on the aft vertical launching system (VLS) deck where Russell’s Strike Officer, Lt. j.g. Frank Maldonado detailed the capabilities and role of the Vertical Launch System, one of Russell’s striking arms.

The tours then went to the bridge,

where Russell’s navigator, Lt.j.g. Ed Sundberg explained the layout and general operations of the pilot-house.

In the next stage of the tour, Combat Systems Officer Lt. Cmdr. Leonard Santiago illustrated the operations of Russell’s fast-paced Combat Information Center (CIC).

The tours then proceeded to the Central Control Station, where Gas

Turbine System Master Chief (SW) Corwin Wagner explained the details of Russell’s engineering plant.

As an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, the Russell can conduct operations against land, air, surface and subsurface targets simultaneously.

Russell’s combat systems ceneter around the Aegis combat system and the SPY-1d radar.

## Donald H. Rumsfeld sworn in as 21st SECDEF

By Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense

Donald H. Rumsfeld was sworn in as the 21st Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Jan. 20.

In remarks following the ceremony, Rumsfeld said, “I am grateful to the president for the opportunity to serve again as Secretary of Defense. I look forward to working with the dedicated and talented men and women who serve in the armed forces and in the civilian ranks of the department.”

Until being sworn in as the 21st Secretary of Defense, Rumsfeld was in private business. He served as non-executive chairman of the board of directors of Gilead Sciences, Inc., and on the board of directors of Asea Brown Boveri Ltd. and Amylin Pharmaceuticals. He was the chairman of the Salomon Smith Barney International Advisory Board and served as an advisor to a number of companies.

Rumsfeld was born in Chicago in 1932. He attended Princeton University on scholarship, served in the U.S. Navy (1954-57) as a naval aviator and was an All-Navy Wrestling Champion. He was previously the 13th Secretary of Defense, the youngest in our country’s history (1975-1977).

President George W. Bush sent a message to the armed forces and the civilians who support the defense department via the nation’s incoming 21st defense secretary.

Donald H. Rumsfeld read the message from the president during a full honors welcome ceremony Jan. 26 at the Pentagon.

Here is the text of that message:

“To the armed forces of the United States and to the men and women who support them.

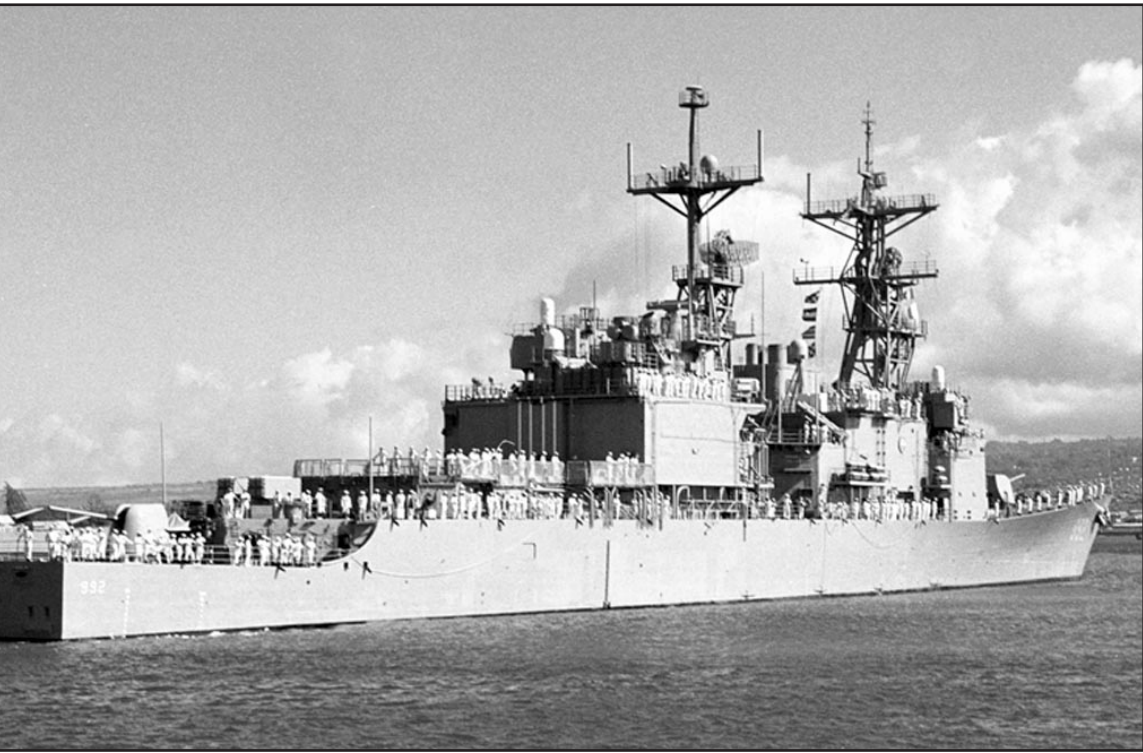
“Your service in the cause of freedom is both noble and extraordinary. Because of you, America is strong and the flame of freedom burns brighter than at any time in history.

“Your country can never repay you for the sacrifices and hardships you endure, but we are grateful for the liberties we enjoy every day because of your service.

“As your Commander-in-Chief I will always support you and your families so that this great nation continues to have the greatest armed forces in the history of the world.

“Thank you.”

## Fletcher hosts U.N. peace-keepers in East Timor



File photo

USS Fletcher (DD 992) entertained civilian and military leaders for lunch and a tour in East Timor.

By USS Fletcher  
Public Affairs

Sailors aboard USS Fletcher (DD 992) hosted civilian and military leaders in East Timor Jan. 17 for a luncheon and tour, while nearly 100 more crewmembers worked ashore in Dili distributing goods to orphans and school-children.

During the visit, Sailors also rebuilt a community center as part of an ongoing community service project.

Honored at the luncheon were the Commander of the U.N. Peacekeeping Force, Lt .Gen. Boonsrang of Thailand; Cmdr. Taur Mataan Ruak, commander in chief of the Falintil, the military element fighting for independence for more than 25 years and which will now become the East

Timor Defense Force; and Roque Rodriguez, head of the Office of Defense Force Development for East Timor.

Also present were Gary Gray, head of the U.S. Diplomatic Mission to East Timor; Col. Lee Byung Joo, head of the Republic of Korea National Command Element of U.N. Peacekeeping Force; and Col. Ahmed Imtiaz of Pakistan, deputy chief of staff of engineers for the U.N. Peacekeeping Force.

Fletcher Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Dell Epperson led the tour of Fletcher’s workspaces, as crewmembers stood by to explain their area of expertise in detail to the visitors.

The Fletcher is coming back to Pearl Harbor from its six-month deployment Feb. 17.